

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A nonwoven web made from fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight being located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight, said second areas being configured to pass liquids contacting said areas, said first areas comprising from about 25% to about 75% of said nonwoven web.
2. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.
3. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first areas and said second areas form a repeating pattern.
4. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first areas and said second areas form alternating columns.
5. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first areas surround said second areas, said second areas forming discrete shapes.
6. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 3, wherein said first areas form alternating rows and alternating columns.
7. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise polypropylene fibers.
8. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said first basis weight is at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight.
9. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 8, wherein said first basis weight and said second basis weight are from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard.
10. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise crimped fibers.
11. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1,

wherein said first areas comprise from about 40% to about 60% of said nonwoven web.

12. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise pulp fibers.

13. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise polymeric fibers.

14. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a meltblown web.

15. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said nonwoven web comprises an air laid web.

16. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 13, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise multicomponent fibers.

17. A process for producing nonwoven webs having areas of higher basis weight and areas of lower basis weight, said process comprising the steps of:

extruding a thermoplastic polymer through a die to form fibers;

directing said fibers onto a foraminous surface under a suction force, said foraminous surface having a predetermined pattern of lower permeability sections; and

forming a nonwoven web on said foraminous surface from said fibers, said web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight, said second areas forming on said foraminous surface where said lower permeability sections are located.

18. A process as defined in claim 17, further comprising the step of drawing said fibers after said fibers have been extruded.

19. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein

5 said second areas contained in said web are highly liquid permeable such that if said web were made exclusively from said second areas, said web would be configured to pass liquids contacting said web.

20. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein said thermoplastic polymer comprises polypropylene.

5 21. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein said first basis weight and said second basis weight of said nonwoven web ranges from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard.

22. A process as defined in claim 21, wherein said first basis weight is from about 1.5 to about 5 times greater than said second basis weight.

23. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein said foraminous surface is configured to form said nonwoven web such that said first areas and said second areas form alternating columns.

24. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein said first areas of said nonwoven web comprise at least 25% of said web.

25. A process as defined in claim 24, wherein said first areas comprise from about 40% to about 60% of said web.

26. A process as defined in claim 17, wherein said fibers comprise bicomponent filaments.

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5 27. -A nonwoven web comprising extruded polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight, said first and second areas being located on said web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from 0.2 ounces per square yard to 9 ounces per square yard.

28. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first basis weight is at least 2 times greater than said second basis weight.

29. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers contain a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester, nylon, and combinations thereof.

30. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise polypropylene.

31. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said polymeric fibers are crimped.

32. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas comprise from about 25% to about 75% of said nonwoven web.

33. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said first areas and said second areas are in alternating columns.

34. A nonwoven web as defined in claim 27, wherein said web comprises a meltblown web or a spunbond web.

35. A laminate comprising:  
a first layer comprising a substrate; and  
a nonwoven web adhered to said substrate, said nonwoven web comprising pulp fibers or polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard.

36. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web.

37. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise polypropylene fibers, and wherein said first areas and said second areas form alternating columns.

38. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

39. A laminate as defined in claim 38, further comprising a third layer comprising a nonwoven web, said nonwoven web comprising a spunbond web, said first layer being located in between said second layer and said third layer.

40. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a polymeric film.

41. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web.

42. A diaper incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

43. A wiper product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

44. A personal care product incorporating the laminate defined in claim 35.

45. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said substrate comprises a meltblown web and said nonwoven web comprises a spunbond web.

46. A laminate as defined in claim 45, wherein said fibers contained within said nonwoven web comprise bicomponent polymeric fibers.

47. A laminate as defined in claim 46, wherein said bicomponent fibers are crimped.

48. A laminate as defined in claim 35, wherein said first areas of said nonwoven web surround said second areas, said second areas forming discreet shapes.